Introduced by Senator Mountjoy

February 19, 1998

An act to amend Section 4536 of the Penal Code, and to amend Sections 6600.05, 6601, 6602, 6603, and 6609.1 6609.1, 6609.2, and 6609.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to sex offenses.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

- SB 1976, as amended, Mountjoy. Sexually violent predators.
- (1) Existing law provides that every person committed to a public or private mental health facility as a mentally disordered sex offender, who escapes from or who escapes while being conveyed to or from that mental health facility, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison or in the county jail not to exceed one year.

This bill would make this provision applicable as well to those persons committed to a mental health facility as a sexually violent predator and would require the medical director or person in charge of the facility to promptly notify either the Department of Corrections Sexually Violent Predator Parole Coordinator or local law enforcement officials upon the escape. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law provides that Atascadero State Hospital shall be used whenever a person is committed to a secure

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facility for mental health treatment as a sex offender and is placed in a state hospital under the direction of the State Department of Mental Health.

This bill would provide that Atascadero State Hospital shall be used for this purpose only until a permanent housing and treatment facility is available, and would require the Director of the State Department of Mental Health to locate, in conjunction with the Director of Corrections, a site for a permanent facility. The bill would direct the State Department of Mental Health to operate this facility, either directly or by contract, and would provide that, absent direct authorization by the Legislature, only mentally disordered sex offenders shall be treated therein.

(3) Under existing law, whenever the Director Corrections determines that an individual who is in custody, and who is either serving a determinate prison sentence or whose parole has been revoked, may be a sexually violent predator, the director is required to refer the person for evaluation by the State Department of Mental Health, as specified. If the State Department of Mental determines that the person is a sexually violent predator, the Director of Mental Health is required to forward a request for a petition to be filed for commitment to the county in which the person was convicted of the offense for which the person was committed to the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections. Copies of the evaluation reports are required to be made available to the county-designated attorney who may file a petition for commitment.

This bill would provide that the county-designated attorney shall notify the State Department of Mental Health of its decision regarding the filing of a petition for commitment within 30 days of the receipt from the department of the request for a petition for commitment.

(3)

(4) Existing law provides that a judge of the superior court shall review the petition for commitment and determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the individual named in the petition is likely to engage in sexually violent predatory criminal behavior upon his or her release.

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This bill would require the court to notify the State Department of Mental Health of the outcome of the probable cause hearing by forwarding to the department a copy of the minute order of the court within 15 days of the decision.

(4)

(5) Existing law provides that a person subject to commitment as a sexually violent predator is entitled to specified rights, including a trial by jury.

This bill would provide that the court shall notify the State Department of Mental Health of the outcome of the trial by forwarding to the department a copy of the minute order of the court within 72 hours of the decision.

(5)

(6) Existing law provides that if the court orders the immediate release of a sexually violent predator, the State Department of Mental Health shall notify the sheriff or chief of police, or both, and the district attorney, who has jurisdiction over the community in which the person is scheduled to be released at the time of release.

This bill would impose this notification duty on the court instead of the State Department of Mental Health instead provide that when thedepartment makes recommendation to the court concerning either the release or commitment of a sexually violent predator, it shall, at least 15 days in advance of making its recommendation, notify specified local law enforcement officials (1) where the person may be released, (2) where the person last resided or, (3) in the county which filed for the person's civil commitment. The bill would also require notification of the Department of Corrections Sexually Violent Predator Parole Coordinator, as specified.

(7) Existing law authorizes a sheriff or chief of police to notify appropriate persons upon the impending release of a sexually violent predator.

This bill would expand this authorization to allow for notification to appropriate persons of the disposition of a sexually violent predator upon notice from the State Department of Mental Health of its recommendation to the court in connection with a commitment hearing.

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(8) Existing law authorizes a sheriff or chief of police to notify requesting parties of the impending release of a sexually violent predator, but allows disclosure of the community in which the person will be placed only if it is (1) in the county of a requesting witness, victim, or family member, or (2) within 25 miles of the actual residence of a requesting witness, victim, or family member.

This bill would provide that any person requesting notice shall be informed of the identity of the court considering the recommitment hearing, or review conditional release. commitment status. The billwould also allow victims, witnesses, and family members who request notification to be informed of the community where the person is scheduled to be placed if their actual residence is within 100 miles of that community.

(6)

(9) The California Constitution requires the state reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs the Statutory provisions mandated by state. procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4536 of the Penal Code is amended to read:
- 3 4536. (a) Every person committed to a state hospital
- or other public or private mental health facility as a
- mentally disordered sex offender, or under the provisions
- of Article 4 (commencing with Section 6600) of Chapter
- 2 of Part 2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, who
- escapes from or who escapes while being conveyed to or
- 9 from—such a state hospital or other public or private
- 10 mental health facility, is punishable by imprisonment in 11 the state prison or in the county jail not to exceed one
- year. The term imposed pursuant to this section shall be

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served consecutively to 1 any other sentence or 2 commitment.

(b) The medical director or person in charge of a state 3 hospital or other public or private mental health facility 5 to which a person has been committed as a mentally disordered sex offender-shall promptly notify, or under the provisions of Article 4 (commencing with Section 6600) of Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, shall promptly notify the Department Violent Predator 10 of Corrections' Sexually coordinator, the chief of police of the city in which the hospital or facility is located, or the sheriff of the county 12 13 if the hospital or facility is located in an unincorporated 14 area, of the escape of the person, and shall request the assistance of the chief of police or sheriff in apprehending 16 the person, and shall, within 48 hours of the escape of the 17 person, orally notify the court that made 18 commitment, the prosecutor in the case. 19 Department of Justice of the escape.

20 SEC. 1.5. Section 6600.05 of the Welfare 21 Institutions Code is amended to read:

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6600.05. (a) Until a permanent housing 23 treatment facility is available, Atascadero State Hospital 24 shall be used whenever a person is committed to a secure 25 facility for mental health treatment pursuant to Section 26 6600 this article and is placed in a state hospital under the direction of the State Department of Mental Health unless there are unique circumstances that preclude the placement of a person at that facility. If a 30 state hospital is not used, the facility to be used shall be 31 located on a site or sites determined by the Director of 32 Corrections and the Director of Mental Health. In no case shall a person committed to a secure facility for mental health treatment pursuant to Section 6600 this article be placed at Metropolitan State Hospital or Napa State 36 Hospital.

permanent facility for 37 (b) A the housing 38 treatment of persons committed pursuant to this article shall be located on a site or sites determined by the Director of Corrections and the Director of Mental SB 1976 -6-

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Health. The State Department of Mental Health shall be responsible for operation of the facility, including the 3 provision of treatment directly, or indirectly by contract. 4 In no event shall any persons other than those placed 5 pursuant to this article be housed or treated at a facility established pursuant to this subdivision unless expressly authorized by the Legislature.

- SEC. 2. Section 6601 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:
- 6601. (a) Whenever Director of the Corrections determines that an individual who is in custody under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections, and who 13 is either serving a determinate prison sentence or whose 14 parole has been revoked, may be a sexually violent 15 predator, the director shall, at least six months prior to 16 that individual's scheduled date for release from prison, refer the person for evaluation in accordance with this 17 18 section. However, if the inmate was received by the department with less than nine months of his or her 20 sentence to serve, or if the inmate's release date is 21 modified by judicial or administrative action, the director 22 may refer the person for evaluation in accordance with 23 this section at a date that is less than six months prior to 24 the inmate's scheduled release date.
- (b) The person shall be screened by the Department 25 26 of Corrections and the Board of Prison Terms based on whether the person has committed a sexually violent predatory offense and on a review of the person's social, 29 criminal, and institutional history. This screening shall be 30 conducted in accordance with a structured screening 31 instrument developed and updated by the 32 Department of Mental Health in consultation with the 33 Department of Corrections. If as a result of this screening 34 it is determined that the person is likely to be a sexually 35 violent predator, the Department of Corrections shall 36 refer the person to the State Department of Mental Health for a full evaluation of whether the person meets 38 the criteria in Section 6600.
- (c) The State Department of Mental Health 39 evaluate the person in accordance with a standardized

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assessment protocol, developed and updated by the State Department of Mental Health, to determine whether the person is a sexually violent predator as defined in this standardized assessment article. The protocol 5 require assessment of diagnosable mental disorders, as well as various factors known to be associated with the risk of reoffense among sex offenders. Risk factors to be considered shall include criminal and psychosexual 9 history, type, degree, and duration of sexual deviance, and severity of mental disorder. 10

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- (d) Pursuant to subdivision (c), the person shall be practicing evaluated by two psychiatrists or psychologists, or one practicing psychiatrist and practicing psychologist, designated by the Director of 15 Mental Health. If both evaluators concur that the person 16 has a diagnosed mental disorder—such so that he or she is likely to engage in acts of sexual violence without 18 appropriate treatment and custody, the Director Mental Health shall forward a request for a petition for 20 commitment under Section 6602 to the designated in subdivision (i). Copies of the evaluation reports and any other supporting documents shall be made available to the attorney designated by the county pursuant to subdivision (i) who may file a petition for 25 commitment.
- the professionals performing (e) If one of 27 evaluation pursuant to subdivision (d) does not concur that the person meets the criteria specified in subdivision (d), but the other professional concludes that the person meets those criteria, the Director of Mental Health shall arrange for further examination of the person by two independent professionals selected in accordance with subdivision (g).
- (f) If an examination by independent professionals pursuant to subdivision (e) is conducted, a petition to 36 request commitment under this article shall only be filed if both independent professionals who evaluate person pursuant to subdivision (e) concur that the person criteria for commitment specified subdivision (d). The professionals selected to evaluate

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the person pursuant to subdivision (g) shall inform the person that the purpose of their examination is not treatment but to determine if the person meets certain criteria to be involuntarily committed pursuant to this article. It is not required that the person appreciate or understand that information.

- (g) Any independent professional who is designated by the Director of Corrections or the Director of Mental Health for purposes of this section shall not be a state 10 government employee, shall have at least five years of 11 experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental 12 disorders, and shall include psychiatrists and licensed psychologists who have a doctoral degree in psychology. 14 The requirements set forth in this section also shall apply 15 to any professionals appointed by the court to evaluate 16 the person for purposes of any other proceedings under this article.
- State Department of (h) If the Mental 19 determines that the person is a sexually violent predator 20 as defined in this article, the Director of Mental Health shall forward a request for a petition to be filed for 22 commitment under this article to the county designated in subdivision (i). Copies of the evaluation reports and any other supporting documents shall be made available 25 to the attorney designated by the county pursuant to subdivision (i) who may file a petition for commitment in the superior court.
- (i) If the county's designated counsel concurs with the 29 recommendation, a petition for commitment shall be 30 filed in the superior court of the county in which the person was convicted of the offense for which he or she was committed to the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections. The petition shall be filed, and proceedings shall be handled, by either the district attorney or the county counsel of that county. The county 35 36 board of supervisors shall designate either the district attorney or the county counsel to assume responsibility for proceedings under this article.
- (j) The time limits set forth in this section shall not 39 apply during the first year that this article is operative.

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(k) If the person is otherwise subject to parole, a finding or placement made pursuant to this article shall not toll, discharge, or otherwise affect the term of parole pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 3000) of Chapter 8 of Title 1 of Part 3 of the Penal Code.

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(1) Pursuant to subdivision the attorney (d), designated by the county pursuant to subdivision (i) shall notify the State Department of Mental Health of its decision regarding the filing of a petition for commitment within 30 days of the receipt from the department of the request for a petition for commitment.

SEC. 3. Section 6602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

6602. (a) A judge of the superior court shall review petition and shall determine whether there 15 probable cause to believe that the individual named in the petition is likely to engage in sexually violent predatory criminal behavior upon his or her release. The person named in the petition shall be entitled to 20 assistance of counsel at the probable cause hearing. If the judge determines there is not probable cause, he or she 22 shall dismiss the petition and any person subject to parole shall report to parole. If the judge determines that there 24 is probable cause, the judge shall order that the person 25 remain in custody in a secure facility until a trial is 26 completed and shall order that a trial be conducted to determine whether the person is, by reason of a diagnosed mental disorder, a danger to the health and safety of others in that the person is likely to engage in acts 30 of sexual violence upon his or her release from the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections or other secure facility.

(b) The court shall notify the State Department of 34 Mental Health of the outcome of the probable cause hearing by forwarding to the department a copy of the 36 minute order of the court within 15 days of the decision.

SEC. 4. Section 6603 of the Welfare and Institutions 37 38 Code is amended to read:

6603. (a) A person subject to this article shall be 39 entitled to a trial by jury, the assistance of counsel, the SB 1976 **— 10 —**

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1 right to retain experts or professional persons to perform an examination on his or her behalf, and have access to all 3 relevant medical and psychological records and reports. 4 In the case of a person who is indigent, the court shall appoint counsel to assist him or her, and, upon the person's request, assist the person in obtaining an expert or professional person to perform an examination or participate in the trial on the person's behalf.

- (b) The attorney petitioning for commitment under 10 this article shall have the right to demand that the trial be before a jury.
 - (c) If no demand is made by the person subject to this article or the petitioning attorney, the trial shall be before the court without jury.
- (d) A unanimous verdict shall be required in any jury 16 trial.
- (e) The court shall notify the State Department of 18 Mental Health of the outcome of the trial by forwarding to the department a copy of the minute order of the court within 72 hours of the decision.
- SEC. 5. Section 6609.1 of the Welfare and Institutions 22 Code is amended to read:
- 6609.1. (a) When any person committed as a sexually 24 violent predator is going to be unconditionally released, State Department of Mental Health makes a 25 the 26 recommendation to the court for community outpatient 27 treatment for any person committed as a sexually violent 28 predator, it shall notify the sheriff or chief of police, or 29 both, and the district attorney, who has or the county's counsel, that have jurisdiction over the 30 designated 31 community in which the person is scheduled to be 32 released. Except as provided in subdivision (b), the 33 *following locations:*
- (1) The community in which the person may be 35 released for community outpatient treatment.
- (2) The community in which the person maintained 36 37 their last legal residence as defined by Section 3003 of the 38 Penal Code.
- (3) The county which filed for the person's civil 39 40 commitment pursuant to this article.

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The department shall also notify the Department of Corrections' Sexually Violent Predator *Parole* Coordinator, if the person is otherwise subject to parole pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 3000) of Chapter 8 of Title 1 of Part 3 of the Penal Code.

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The notice shall be given at least 15 days prior to the scheduled release date and shall include the name of the person who is scheduled to be released, whether or not the person is required to register with law enforcement, and the community in which the person will reside.

- (b) When a person committed as a sexually violent predator is scheduled to be released to a county other 13 than the county from which he or she was committed, the 14 State Department of Mental Health shall provide written department's submission of its recommendation to the 16 court.
- (b) When the State Department of Mental Health 18 makes a recommendation to pursue recommitment, a recommendation not to pursue recommitment, or seeks a judicial review of commitment status pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 6605, of any person committed as a sexually violent predator, it shall provide written notice of that release action to the sheriff or police chief chief of police, or both, and to the district attorney, who has that have jurisdiction over the community in which the inmate is scheduled to be released. following locations:
 - (1) The community in which the person maintained their last legal residence as defined by Section 3003 of the Penal Code.
- 31 (2) The probable community in which the person will 32 released. recommending if not 33 recommitment.
- 34 (3) The county which filed for the person's civil 35 commitment pursuant to this article.
- 36 The State Department of Mental Health shall also notify the Department of Corrections' Sexually Violent 37 Predator Parole Coordinator, if the person is otherwise subject to parole pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with 40 Section 3000) of Chapter 8 of Title 1 of the Penal Code.

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The notice shall be made at least 45 15 days prior to the scheduled release date and shall include the name of the person who is scheduled to be released, whether or not 3 the person is required to register with local law 5 enforcement, and the community in which the person will reside. to department's submission of its 6 the recommendation to the court.

Those agencies receiving the notice referred to in this subdivision shall have 15 days from receipt of the notice provide written comment to the department regarding the impending release. Those comments shall be considered by the department, which may modify its decision regarding the community in which the person is scheduled to be released, based on those comments.

- (c) If the court orders the immediate release of a 16 sexually violent predator, the court county's designated counsel who filed the commitment petition shall notify 18 the State Department of Mental Health, and shall notify the sheriff or chief of police, or both, and the district attorney, who has that have jurisdiction community in which the person is scheduled to be released at the time of release. following locations:
 - (1) The community in which the person is to be released.
 - (2) The community in which the person maintained their last legal residence as defined in Section 3003 of the Penal Code.

The county's designated counsel shall also notify the Department of Corrections' Sexually Violent Predator 30 Parole Coordinator, if the person is otherwise subject to parole pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 3000) of Chapter 8 of Title 1 of Part 3 of the Penal Code.

33 (d) At least 72 hours prior to any action to otherwise 34 release from custody any person referred for civil commitment pursuant to this article, or any person 36 committed as a sexually violent predator pursuant to this article, notice of this release shall be provided to the 38 Department of Corrections' Sexually Violent Predator Parole Coordinator, if the person is otherwise subject to 40 parole pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section **— 13 —** SB 1976

3000) of Chapter 8 of Title 1 of Part 3 of the Penal Code. The notice shall be provided by the county's designated 3 counsel.

(e) The notice required by this section shall be made whether or not a request has been made pursuant to Section 6609.

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- (f) The time limits imposed by this section are not applicable where the release date of a sexually violent advanced has been by a iudicial administrative process or procedure that could not have reasonably been anticipated by the State Department of Mental Health and where, as the result of the time 14 adjustments, there is less than 30 days remaining on the 15 commitment before the inmate's release, but notice shall 16 be given as soon as practicable. In no case shall notice required by this section to the appropriate agency be 18 later than the day of release. -If, after the 45-day notice is given to law enforcement and to the district attorney 20 relating to an out-of-county placement, there is change of county placement, notice to the ultimate county of placement shall be made upon the determination of the county of placement.
- SEC. 6. Section 6609.2 of the Welfare and Institutions 25 Code is amended to read:
 - 6609.2. (a) When any sheriff or chief of police is notified of the pending release of a person committed as by the State Department of Mental Health of its recommendation to the court concerning the disposition of a sexually violent predator pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 6609.1, that sheriff or chief of police may notify any person designated by the sheriff or chief of police as an appropriate recipient of the notice.
- 34 (b) A law enforcement official authorized to provide 35 notice pursuant to this section, and the public agency or entity employing the law enforcement official, shall not be liable for providing or failing to provide notice 37 38 pursuant to this section.
- SEC. 7. Section 6609.3 of the Welfare and Institutions 39 Code is amended to read: 40

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6609.3. (a) At the time a notice is sent pursuant to 1 subdivision (a) of Section 6609.1, the sheriff, chief of police, or district attorney notified of the release shall also send a notice to persons described in Section 679.03 of the 5 Penal Code who have requested a notice, informing those persons of the fact that the person who committed the sexually violent offense is scheduled to may be released and specifying the proposed date of release. Notice 9 together with information identifying the court that will consider conditional 10 the release. recommendation regarding recommitment, or review of commitment status pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 6605. When 12 13 a person is approved by the court to be conditionally 14 released, notice of the community in which the person is scheduled to reside shall also be given only if it is (1) in the county of residence of a witness, victim, or family member of a victim who has requested notice, or (2) 17 within 25 100 miles of the actual residence of a witness, victim, or family member of a victim who has requested 19 notice. If, after providing the witness, victim, or next of kin with the notice, there is any change in the release date 21 22 or the community in which the person is to reside, the board sheriff, chief of police, or the district attorney shall provide the witness, victim, or next of kin with the revised 25 information.

- (b) At the time a notice is sent pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 6609.1 the district attorney so notified shall also send a notice to persons described in Section 679.03 of the Penal Code who have requested a notice informing those persons of the fact the person who committed the sexually violent offense has been released.
- (c) In order to be entitled to receive the notice set forth in this section, the requesting party shall keep the sheriff, chief of police, and district attorney who were notified under Section 679.03 of the Penal Code, informed of his or her current mailing address.
- 37 SEC. 8. No reimbursement is required by this act 38 pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California 39 Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred 40 by a local agency or school district will be incurred

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1 because this act creates a new crime or infraction, 2 eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty 3 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 4 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition 5 of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article 6 XIII B of the California Constitution.

7 Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government 8 Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act 9 shall become operative on the same date that the act 10 takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.